

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 03258 090738Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SY-05 TRSE-00 IO-13 /084 W

-----090748Z 091590 /17

R 090613Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 374

INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS CANBERRA 3258

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: AS, PINR

SUBJ: REORGANIZATION OF AUSTRALIAN INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY
SERVICES

1. ONMAY 5 PRIME MINISTER FRASER PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT AN
ABRIDGED EDITION OF A ROYAL COMMISSION STUDY ON INTELLIGENCE
AND SECURITY AND ANNOUNCED MAJOR ADJUSTMENTS IN AUSTRALIA'S
INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM.

2. MAJOR CHANGE INVOLVED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL
COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS INCLUDING THE PRIME MINISTER, THE
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, THE TREASURER, THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE,
THE FONMIN, THE DEFENSE MINISTER, AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TO SET OVERALL POLICY AND OVERSEE THE WORK OF THE INTELLIGENCE
COMMUNITY. THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE
WILL BE:

QTE TO EXERCISE POLICY CONTROL AND MANAGERIAL OVSIGHT OVER
THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL,
IN RESPECT OF TARGETS, PRIORITIES, ACTIVITIES, ORGANIZATIONAL
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REQUIREMENTS, BROAD ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES, PERFORMANCE AND
CO-ORDINATION AND INTER-RELATIONSHIPS OF THE VARIOUS
AGENCIES. END QTE.

3. THE GOA ALSO AGREED WITH THE ROYAL COMMISSION REPORT THAT
AUSTRALIAN INTELLIGENCE PRODUCTION WAS QTE NOT AS GOOD AS IT
SHOULD BE END QTE IN TERMS OF QUALITY, TIMELINESS, AND

RELEVANCE. THEREFORE, THE GOA HAS DECIDED THERE SHOULD BE A NEW INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT AGENCY ENTITLED QTE THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS END QTE TO BE CHARGED WITH ASSESSING INTERNATIONAL INTELLIGENCE. THE NEW OFFICE WILL NOT RPT NOT COLLECT INTELLIGENCE BY CLANDESTINE OR OTHER MEANS BUT WILL DRAW ITS INTELLIGENCE FROM OTHER SOURCES COOPERATING, FOR EXAMPLE, WITH JIO AND ASIO. THE OFFICE WILL BE ASSISTED BY A NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS BOARD AND AN ECONOMIC ASSESSMENTS BOARD. R.W. FURLONGER, PRESENTLY AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA, WILL HEAD THE NEW OFFICE.

4. FRASER ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOA WOULD CONSIDER MOVING HEAD QUARTERS OF ALL INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES TO CANBERRA, AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD KEEP THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION INFORMED OF SIGNIFICANT MATTERS IN THE INTELLIGENCE FIELD ON A CONTINUING BASIS.

5. FULL TEXT OF ABRIDGED FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF ROYAL COMMISSION POUCHED EA/ANP.
PERCIVAL

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NNN

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